

Flipped: The Upside Down Kingdom (Let God be the Judge)

Andy Deane · 11/12/2023 · Matthew 7:1-6

Jesus doesn't teach Christian community will be perfect. How should believers respond when a fellow sinner sins?

#1 Christ-followers should not be HYPERCRITICAL:

Matthew 7:1-2, 1 *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

- Jesus is not saying: turn blind eye to sin; refuse to discern true & false or good & evil.
- Yes, we use discernment, but we're not a judge in the sense of being overly critical & condemning. We shouldn't judge harshly. The hypercritical is a fault-finder that's negative and hurtful to others and actually enjoys discovering failure, with no grace given to their motives.
- Here are four reasons from Scripture on why we should not be judgmental:
 1. This type of judging increases God's judgement on us: Matthew 7:1-2
 2. We're not the judge, we're among the judged: James 4:12, ... *There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?*
 3. These are God's servants & children we're judging: Romans 14:4, *Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. & they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.*
 4. We can't accurately read hearts & motives: 1 Corinthians 4:5, ... *judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness & will expose the motives of the heart.*

#2 Christ-followers should not be HYPOCRITICAL:

Matthew 7:3-5a, 3 *“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite...*

- Self-righteousness is being most bothered by another's sin.
- We have personal sins to deal with, and it's hypocritical to worry about other people's sins more than our own.
- That's what's condemned, a lack of self-awareness. A desire to correct others but not correct ourselves.
- Good advice: Open your ears to hear & your heart to love, long before you open your mouth to correct.

#3 Christ-followers should be QUICKER TO ENCOURAGE than to criticize:

Matthew 7:5b, ... *first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

- Jesus doesn't remove our responsibility toward one another.
- What a motivation do we have to first deal with our own sin?
 1. Credibility (*first take the plank out of your own eye*)
 2. Spiritual health personally (*you will see clearly*)
 3. The privilege of helping another find victory (*to remove*)
 4. Compassion desires to reduce pain in others (*the speck*)
 5. We should love who Christ loves (*from your brother's eye*)

#4 Christ-followers should use JUDGMENT IN EVANGELISM:

Matthew 7:6, 6 *“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.*

- Jesus teaches there are some who act like animals and completely miss the value of the gospel, or will be mad.
- Believers are to be slow to judge, but also wisely discern people's response and instead of continuing to share the gospel to those who adamantly reject it, they should (1) pause, (2) pray, and (3) re-engage if a door opens.

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